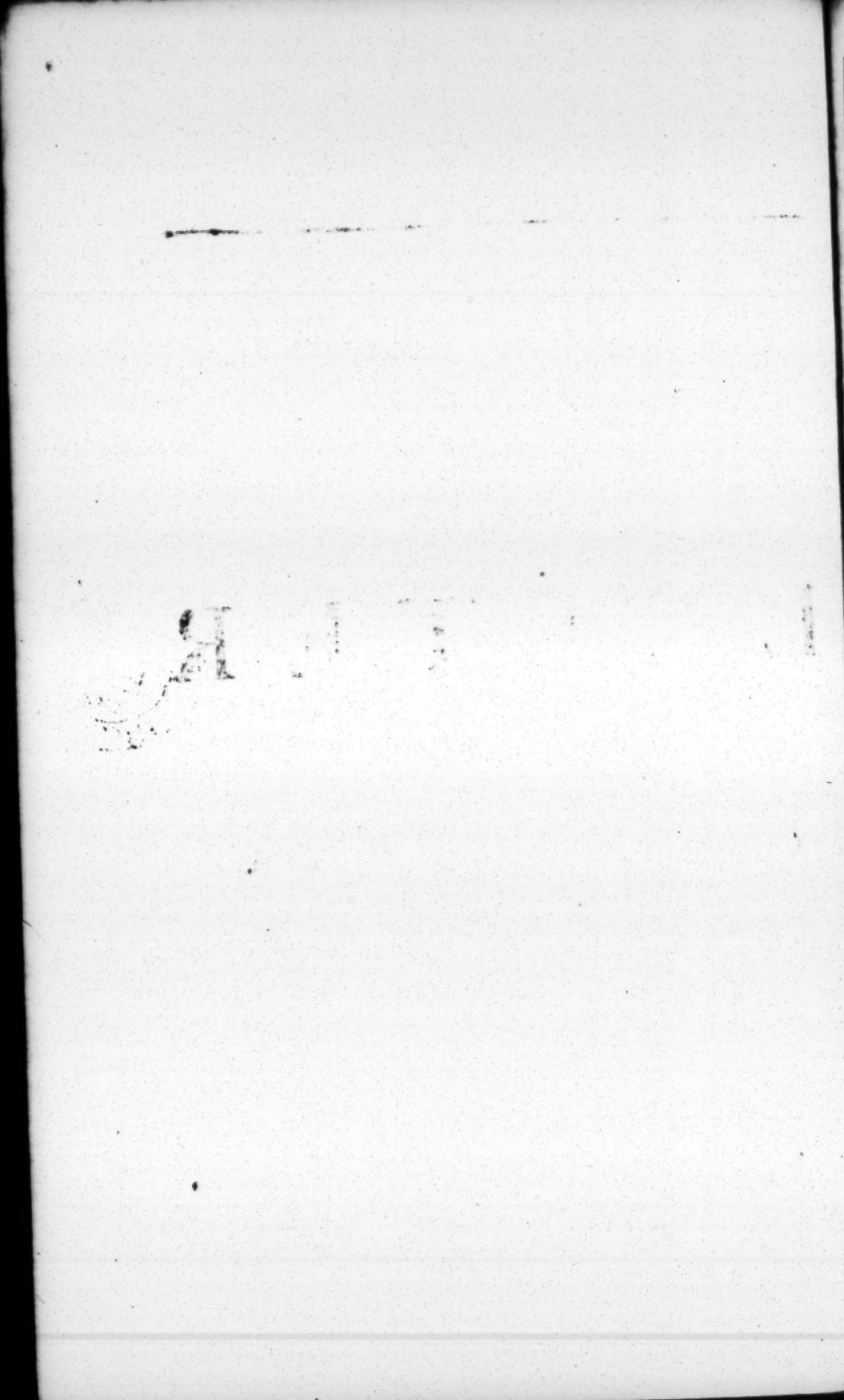

A
LETTER
TO THE
EXAMINER, &c.



A N
ACCOUNT
O F T H E
State and Progress
Of the Present
NEGOTIATION
O F
P E A C E.

With the Reasons For and
Against a Partition of Spain, &c.

In a LETTER to a NOBLE
LORD in Worcestershire.

The Second Edition.

To which are added,

The PRELIMINARIES.

*Omnis Nationes Servitutem ferre possunt, nostra Ci-
vitas non potest: Nec ullam aliam ob Causam,
nisi quod illæ Laborem Doloremque fugiant, qui-
bus ut careant omnia perpeti possunt; nos ita à
Majoribus instituti atque imbuti sumus, ut omnia
Consilia atque Facta ad Virtutem et Dignitatem
referamus. Cicer. Philip. 10.*

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SEASONABLE
REMARKS
ON
A Late JOURNEY to
PARIS, &c.



London, Sept. the 30th, 1711.

MY LORD,



FIND by your Lordship's last Letter, that the Report of Mr. P—r's late Clandestine Journey to *Paris*, has already reach'd *Worcestershire*, and occasions no less Speculation and Discourse among the *Country Gentlemen*, than Conjecture and Noise in Town. Your Lordship desires, at the same Time, to be inform'd

A 2 by

by me of the Occasion of this Report: And if it proves to be grounded on Reality, to give you my Opinion of the Motives that engaged the M——y to make this Step. The just and fair Title your Lordship has to every Thing that is mine, makes this Request a Command; and therefore, without any Apology, or Excuse, I shall freely communicate to you, both my *Informations*, and *private Thoughts*. About Ten or Eleven Weeks ago, Mr. P——r went down to *Kent*, and from thence to *Suffolk*, to give a Visit to his Friend, Sir T—— H——; but as a Man of his Birth and Figure may easily be *Absent*, without being *Mist*, no Notice was taken of this Journey, unless it were among the Members of the *Examining Club*. But it happen'd very unluckily, That a Gentleman landing near *Deal*, about the latter End of *July*, or Beginning of *August* last, was feiz'd by the Custom-House Officers, who inquiring who he was, the Gentleman told them a wrong Name. One of the Officers, who, at first sight, thought he was not absolutely a Stranger to that Face, look'd more fixedly upon the Gentleman, and finding him to be Mr. P——r, expostulated with him for concealing his true Name; adding, That, in discharge of their Trust, they must keep him in Custody, till they had receiv'd further Instructions from the Secretaries. Hereupon Mr. P——r produc'd

a Pass in due Form: But the Officers inferring, That as he had not, at first, declared the Name mention'd in the Pass, so they were not obliged to shew any Regard to it; Mr. P—— was stopt till he was releas'd from Above. The only Favour he desired of the Officers was, that they would take special Care of a *Black-Box* he had in his Portmantle; which they did accordingly.

This Adventure could not be kept so Secret, but that it took some Vent: and, in a Day or Two, became Town-Talk. However, it appear'd so strange, and so improbable, either that Mr. P——r should, in this Clandestine Manner, be sent to *France*, upon so important an Affair; or, if he were, that better Care was not taken of his free Going to and fro' undiscover'd, that many doubted the Truth of the general Report. But a foreign Minister, of the First Rank, who discharges his Trust with equal Vigilance and Dexterity, having thought it his Duty to make strict Inquiry into this Affair: And finding that *Common Fame* agreed with *Matter of Fact*, had an *Eclaircissement* about it with the Prime M——r; who, with his usual Frankness and Candor, told him, *He had no Reason to be alarm'd; For the Q——n would never make a Peace, derogatory from any Engagements She had with Her Allies.* This Passage was soon noised about: So that Mr. P——r's Journey to *Paris* was

no longer Matter of Doubt; the rather because it was mention'd, as Publick News, in the foreign *Prints*; and, after them, in the *Domestick*: Neither of which any Body thought proper to disown or contradict.

On the contrary, Men of Speculation observ'd, That, at this very Time, a News Paper which, tho' of late Years, the *Common Sink of Scurrility and Scandal*, yet, (by what strange Policy, I know not) whose *Proprietor* is privately countenanc'd, if not assisted by some Men in Power, had this remarkable * Paragraph, in the Article, from the *Hague*, Aug. 28- N. S.—

' In
 ' Letters which Count *Zinzerdorf* receiv'd
 ' from *Barcelona*, there is a kind of Secret,
 ' namely, That King *Charles* had resolv'd
 ' to come into *Germany*, as soon as he
 ' should hear of his being elected Empe-
 ' ror. Mean while, to keep the *Catalans*
 ' in Spirit under his Obedience, it was
 ' agreed to leave his Confort at *Barcelona*;
 ' and that too with a Promise that his
 ' Catholick Majesty, tho' Emperor, would
 ' return thither, in the Spring, with great-
 ' er Force to reduce the rest of *Spain*.
 ' Tis, indeed, believed that that King will
 ' undoubtedly return to *Barcelona*, (were it
 ' only for the Sense he has of the firm and
 ' inviolable Affection of the *Catalans* for
 ' his Service) unless some unforeseen Acci-
 ' dent

* See the Post-Boy of August the 23d. 1711

dent should hinder him: Surely, this
 will not happen in the Conclusion of a
 General Peace? 'Tis true, there is a Gene-
 ral *Whisper*, that a Negotiation is on Foot
 for that happy End; but we fear the
 chief Ground for that Report is, that
 the Publick Stocks at *Amsterdam* have
 advanc'd for these three Days past, 6 or 7
 per Cent. seeing this may be occasion'd by
 the meer Artifice of the *Stock-Jobbers*,
 who make up their Mouths in their Rise
 or Fall; whereas, for what concerns the
 Peace, we believe there is nothing in't.
 'Tis certain, however, that *France* has
 gone quite round in Beating the Pulses of
 the High Allies, in hopes of Gaining
 their Ends of some of them, but to no
 Purpose. The others having baulk'd her,
 she address'd her self, in the last Place,
 to **GREAT-BRITAIN**. The wise Pre-
 caution of the PRESENT MINISTRY
 there, not to give into Her *Wiles*, frustra-
 ted her Endeavours. And thus she
 found her self so far reduc'd, as not to
 know where next to spread her Net.
 Mean Time Monsieur *Petkum*, Resident
 of *Holstein*, who was afraid he should not
 be the *Canal* made Use of to bring that
 Blessing, and consequently that he should
 lose the Recompence he promis'd himself,
 in Case he shou'd be an Instrument in
 this grand Affair, had written to the
 Marquis de *Torcy* a Letter stuff'd with
 Reasons, whether solid or Imaginary, to
 perswade

' perswade France, That there was no su-
 ' rer Way to obtain a Peace than that of
 ' this State. The Marquis did not, how-
 ' ever, vouchsafe any Answer to that
 ' Epistle, till the CLANDESTINE NE-
 ' GOTIATIONS with Great-Britain pro-
 ' ving fruitless, he was so complaisant, as
 ' to do it, when it was least expected. His
 ' Letter was dated July 15th, and acquain-
 ' ted Monsieur Petkum, That his most
 ' Christian Majesty had too much Reason to be
 ' incens'd against this State; Adding, never-
 ' theless, that if he had any Idea for a General
 ' Peace, and would communicate it to him, he
 ' would see whether he durst shew it, to the
 ' King, his Master. He insinuated farther,
 ' That they well hop'd to succeed elsewhere.
 ' The Resident has since receiv'd Letters
 ' from Monsieur Ronillé; and another
 ' from the Marquis de Torcy, dated the 4th
 ' Instant. In the first there is nothing so
 ' discernable, as Pride and Haughtiness;
 ' but the last is couch'd in a much more
 ' humble Style. This has again set Mon-
 ' sieur Petkum on Wing, to bring the con-
 ' tending Parties to a Pacifick Negotiation.
 ' We have since learn'd, that to induce
 ' Great-Britain to make Peace, France has
 ' offer'd to give her Four FORTS from
 ' the Streights of Magellan, along the Coasts
 ' of Chili and Peru, for the Security of the
 ' Commerce of that Nation, in the South-
 ' Seas. But, all in vain. The Britons
 ' still turn'd a deaf Ear to the melodious Ac-
 cents

' cents of that deluding Syren. However,
 ' we have Advice that an English Colonel,
 ' nam'd Hook, who was 28 Years ago
 ' Chaplain to the unfortunate Duke of
 ' Monmouth, is gone from France to carry
 ' Dispatches to the Captive Mareschal de
 ' Tallard, at Nottingham. And this is all
 ' we know of this Matter.

The *News-Paper* in which this Paragraph was inserted being, of late, perused upon no other Recommendation, than the *Scandal* with which the *Domeſtick Articles* are generally fill'd, few People laid any Stress upon it. But such as read it with some Attention; and took the Pains to compare this Account with the Ordinary Productions of that Writer, thought to find in it a *better Stile*, a *cleaner Turn*, and *more Art*; and from thence rightly concluded, That the Design of it, was, both to bespeak a favourable Construction of the *Clandeſtine Negotiations* between *France* and *Great Britain*, which could no longer be kept Secret; and to feel the Pulse of the Nation, about the several *Schemes* that were made for a Peace. They were confirm'd in this Opinion when, in the *Post-Boy* of the 8th Instant, they found the following Paragraph:

Hague. Sept. 11. N. S. ' The long Conferences which were daily held here of late, by the Ministers of the Powers concern'd in the High Alliance, before the Departure of Count Sinzendorff, afforded

' Matter to our Town Politicians for won-
 ' drous Speculations. The general Opinion
 ' was, That it only regarded the future Elec-
 ' tion of an Emperor, and the different
 ' Intrigues that were suppos'd to be car-
 ' ry'd on in the several Courts of *Germany*,
 ' to obstruct his Majesty, King *Charles III's*.
 ' Interest: But the more Quick-fighted ob-
 ' serving the many Expresses that were
 ' dispatch'd by the Ministers of *Portugal*
 ' and *Savoy*; and that they were daily in
 ' Conference with the Pensionary *Heinsius*,
 ' began to suspect, that some Negotiation
 ' of greater Moment was on Foot: Where-
 ' upon, the Rumour of an approaching
 ' Peace, began to prevail over all the Town,
 ' especially fince the Arrival of the last
 ' Letters from *Frankfort*; by which we
 ' have certain Intelligence, That Signior
 ' *Albani*, the Pope's Nuncio, upon hear-
 ' ing the Report that was spread here, in
 ' *Holland*, of his intermeddling too much
 ' in the future Election, and secretly op-
 ' posing the Interest of the House of *Au-*
 ' *stria*, and of his offering great Sums of
 ' Money to have the Electors of *Cologn*
 ' and *Bavaria* restor'd to their former Digni-
 ' ties, went immediately to Count *Win-*
 ' *digratz*, King *Charles's* Minister, and pro-
 ' tested solemnly to him, that the Whole
 ' was a forg'd Slander, and produc'd the
 ' Pope's Letters, wherein the Interest of
 ' the House of *Austria* was, in a special
 ' Manner, recommended; and that what-
 ' ever

'ever he advanc'd in Behalf of the Elec-
 'tors of Cologn and Bavaria, was only by
 'way of Intercession in the Pope's Name,
 'to whose Paternal Care, as Common Fa-
 'ther, the Differences between Catholick
 'Princes did, in a special Manner, belong:
 'And that, for his offering any Money,
 'either upon this Account, or any other,
 'to any of the Princes of the Empire, it
 'was False, and Calumnious; the Remit-
 'tances which he had lately receiv'd, be-
 'ing design'd, only for adjusting, if possi-
 'ble, the Affair of Comacchio; and de-
 'sir'd withal of Count Windisgratz, that
 'he would please to inform his Catholick
 'Majesty of the Truth of this Matter,
 'and of the Pope's Sincerity, and Impar-
 'tiallity in it, from first to last, which
 'some ill-meaning People would endea-
 'vour to render suspected. That the said
 'Count receiv'd this Declaration with a
 'great deal of Satisfaction, assuring him,
 'at the same time. That he never did be-
 'lieve any such Rumour; but, however,
 'would not fail to send an exact Account
 'of the Whole to the King his Master.
 'This Affair being thus clear'd, has
 'open'd the Eyes of our Men of Intelli-
 'gence, and set them upon the Hunt for
 'finding out the Mystery of the above-
 'mention'd Conferences, tho' kept with
 'the utmost Secrecy, and have discover'd
 'at last, that, infallibly, a General Peace
 'was upon the Anvil, which France pro-

poses upon Terms so very *Advantageous*,
 that 'tis probable it may take. Some will
 have the Terms to be, a *Partition* of the
 Spanish Monarchy : That King *Charles*
 is to have the Crown of *Aragon*, with
 all its Dependencies in *Spain*, the Islands
 of *Majorca*, *Minorca*, *Sardinia*, *Sicily*, the
 Dukedom of *Milan*, and the Kingdom of
Naples, together with all the Ports be-
 longing to *Spain*, on the Coasts of *Tus-*
cany, and all *Flanders*; and King *Philip*
 to have the rest of *Spain*, and the *West-*
Indies. Others affirm, that the Proposals
 are, That King *Philip* shall remain with
 all *Spain* and the *West-Indies*; and King
Charles shall have all the rest of the Sp-
 anish Monarch; and that, for the Securi-
 ty of Trade, the Former is to put into the
 Hands of the Two *Maritime Powers*, Two
 strong Towns upon the *American Conti-*
nent, the one in the *North-Sea*, & the other
 in the *South*; with full Liberty to carry
 on a free Trade; the Truth of which,
 Time only will discover: But what is
 certain, is, That the Minister of a Neu-
 tral Prince residing here, has this Week
 dispatched two Expresses for *France*,
 where *Messieurs d' Uxelles*, and *Polignac*,
 are ready, upon the first warning, to set
 out for any Place that shall be appoint-
 ed. And it is very probable the whole
 Matter may end very soon in an hon-
 ourable, and advantageous PEACE.

Tho' the Bulk of the Nation undoubt-
 edly

edly wish for *Peace*, yet neither of the two *Schemes* here propos'd, met with Approbation, being both look'd upon as almost equally *Insidious* and *Unsafe*, and inconsistent both with our *Honour* and *Interest*. On the Contrary, the Generality expressing their Readiness to bear the Burthen of Taxes, some Time longer, rather than lose, by a *Precarious Peace*, the Fruits of so many Victories and Conquests, gain'd in the Course of this Expensive, but Necessary War, the *Managers* thought fit to seem to strike in with the Humour of the People; which was done Artfully enough in a Pamphlet entitled, *A New Journey to Paris: Together, with some secret Transactions between the French King and an English Gentleman*; suppos'd to have been Written by one Monsieur *Du Baudrier* to his Friend at *Eftaple*, and translated from the *French*.

To omit several trivial Circumstances, intermixt in this Account, the Author acquaints us, ' That Mr. *P—r* has signalliz'd himself, both as an eminent Poet, and Man of Busness; was very much valued by the late King *William*, who employ'd him in important Affairs, both in *England* and *Holland*; was Secretary to the *English* Ambassy, at the Treaty of *Ryswick*; and afterwards to the Lords *P—d* and *J—y*; and, in the Absence of the Latter, manag'd, for some Time, the Affairs of *England* at the *French*

' French Court by himself. That, since
 ' the Reign of Queen A—, he was em-
 ' ploy'd as Commissioner of Trade, but
 ' the Ministry changing soon after Queen
 ' A—'s coming to the Crown, Mon-
 ' sieur P—r who was thought too much
 ' devoted to the Tories, was laid aside,
 ' and liv'd privately at Cambridge. —
 ' That, about two Months ago, the French
 ' King, resolving once more to give Peace
 ' to Europe, offer'd the Court of E—d,
 ' to send a Minister as far as Bologne, who
 ' should be there met by some Person from
 ' E—d, to treat the Overtures of a
 ' Peace. That, upon Notice that this was
 ' agreed to, the King dispatch'd a Person,
 ' who went by the Name of Monsieur de la
 ' Bastide, to Bologne, where he took Lodg-
 ' ings at one Mr. Des Marais, a Silk-
 ' Merchant, marry'd to an English Wo-
 ' man, who formerly waited on one of
 ' the fore-mention'd English Ambassadors's
 ' Ladies. — That, on the 14th of
 ' July, N. S. a Person who was afterwards
 ' known to be Monsieur P—r, coming
 ' directly to the Door, and enquiring for
 ' Monsieur De la Bastide, (the Name and
 ' Place having been before concerted) was
 ' immediately shewn to Monsieur —,
 ' where they were shut up for Three
 ' Hours without any Refreshment, tho'
 ' Mr. P—r had rid Post from Calais
 ' that Day, in a great deal of Rain. That
 ' the next Morning the Author of this
 ' Account

Account being recommended to Mr. P——r by Monsieur *des Marais*, was admitted to wait on him, in the Capacity, both of a Secretary and Valet-de-Chambre; after which he learn'd further Particulars of Mr. P——r's Journey to *Bologne*. That it was reported, That, some Time before the Peace of *Ryswick*, King *William* did dispatch this very Gentleman to *Paris*, upon the same Account for which he now came. —— That having received his Instructions from the *E——b* Court, under pretence of taking a short Journey of Pleasure, and visiting Sir —— *H——* in the County of *Suffolk*, he left his House on *Sunday* Night, the 11th of *July*, N. S. taking none of his Servants with him. That Mr. *M——e*, who had already prepar'd a Bark on the Coast of *Dover*, took Mr. P——r disguis'd in his Chariot; That they lay on *Monday* Night, the 12th of *July*, at the Earl of *J——y*'s House in *Kent*; arrived early the next Day at *Dover*; drove directly to the Shoar; and Mr. P—— having got aboard the Vessel, arrived at *Calais* about Eleven at Night; was entertain'd that Night by the Governor with great Respect; and set out pretty late the next Morning for *Bologn*, where, for Four Days, he had Two long Conferences every Day, with Monsieur *de la Baffide*, from Ten to One at Noon, and from

Six till Nine in the Evening. That on
 the third Morning, the Writer of this
 Account was order'd to attend Early, ob-
 serv'd Mr. P——r to have a pleasant
 Countenance, and was commanded to be
 ready at an Hour's Warning, for a Jour-
 ney to *England*; but upon the Fourth
 Evening all this was chang'd. That on
 the 18th Mr. P——r set out with Mr. de
 la *Bastide*, in the latter's Chaize, for *Paris*,
 where they arriv'd *Tuesday* the 20th; and
 Mr. de la *Bastide* conducted Mr. P——r
 to a Private Lodging in the *Rue St. Louis*,
 prepar'd for his Reception, where the
 Author had Orders to say, That the
 Gentleman to whom he belong'd, was
 call'd Monsieur MATTHEWS; but af-
 terwards, at *Versailles*, he over-heard
 that his real Name was Mr. P——r.
 That Mr. de la *Bastide* would have had
 Mr. Matthews to have gone with him
 next Morning to *Versailles*, but could
 not prevail with him to comply. That
 Mr. de la *Bastide* return'd the same Eve-
 ning from *Versailles*, and after an Hour's
 warm Conference, went with Mr. P——r
 in a Chariot and Six Horses, to *Ver-*
sailles, where they arriv'd about Eleven
 at Night, and alighted at a Vineyard ad-
 joyning to Madam de Maintenon's Gar-
 dens, whereof Mr. de la *Bastide* had the
 Key. That the Clock struck Two be-
 fore they came out; and then the Coach-
 man drove away, to a small House at the

‘ End

'End of the Town, where Mr. *de la Bastide* left Mr. P——r with his Attendants, who observ'd him to be very Thoughtful. That the next Morning, Thursday the 22d, about Ten a Clock, Mr. *De la Bastide* came; and the House being small, and this Writer's Apartment divided from Mr. P——r's only by a thin Wainscot, he could easily hear what they said, when they rais'd their Voices. That, after some time, he could hear Monsieur *de la Bastide* say, with warmth, *Bon Dieu! &c. Good God!* Were ever such Demands made to a great Monarch, unless you were at the Gates of his Metropolis? For the Love of God, Monsieur P——r relax something, if your Instructions will permit you, else I shall despair of any good Success in our Negotiation? Is it not enough that our King will abandon his Grandson, but he must lend his own Arm to pull him out of the Throne? Why did you not open your self to me at Bologne? Why are you more inexorable here at Versailles? You have risen in your Demands, by seeing Madam Maintenon's Desire for a Peace: As able as you are to continue the War, consider which is to be most preferr'd, the Good of your Country, or the Particular Advantage of your G——l; for he will be the only Gainer among your Subjects? That Mr. P——r spoke so softly, he could not be well understood, but upon Parting, the Writer heard him say, If you insist still on

these Difficulties, my next Audience will be
 that of Leave. That, three Hours after,
 Mr. de la Bastide return'd, with a Coun-
 tenance more compos'd, and din'd with
 Mr. P—r, who entertain'd him with
 much Pleasantry; and among other
 Things said, That Monsieur, meaning the
 King, if he were a Private Man, would be
 the most agreeable Person in the World.
 Did you mind how obligingly he enquired,
 whether our Famous Chevalier Newton
 was still Living? He told me, my good
 Friend, poor Despreaux, was Dead since I
 was in France; and ask'd me after Q—
 A—'s Health: Which confirm'd this
 Relater in his Opinion, That Mr. P—
 had an Audience the Night before of the
 King. That about Ten that Evening,
 Mr. de la Bastide came to take Mr. P—
 to go to the same Place they were at be-
 fore, where they staid about Two Hours.
 That being return'd, Mr. P—r appear'd
 somewhat dissatisfy'd; and when he
 came into his Chamber, he threw off his
 Hat in some Passion, folded his Arms,
 and walk'd up and down the Room, for
 above an Hour, extream Pensive. That
 on Fryday the 23d, Mr. de la Bastide staid
 the Afternoon with Mr. P—r, and
 about Eight a-Clock they went to the
 Rendezvous; and in an Hour and Half's
 Time, Mr. P—r with Monsieur de la
 Bastide, another Gentleman and a Lady
 came into the Walk. That, as Mr. P—r
 was

'was taking his Leave of those Persons,
 'the Lady said, *Monsieur, Songez vous, &c.*
 'Consider this Night on what we have said to
 'you; and that the Gentleman seconded
 'her, saying, *Ouy, Ouy, Monsieur, Songez*
 'vous en pour la dernier fois : *Aye, aye, Sir,*
 'consider for the last Time. To which Mon-
 'sieur Matthews answer'd BRISKLY, in
 'going out, *SIRE, TOUT OU RIEN,*
 'Sir, ALL OR NONE, as I have
 'had the Honour to tell your Majesty before.
 'That, on Saturday the 24th, Mr. de la
 'Bastide came to Mr. P——r with a smil-
 'ing Countenance, embrac'd him with
 'much Joy, and told him, *Courage, Mon-
 'sieur ; no Travelling to Day, Madam Main-
 'tenon will have me once more Conduct You
 'to Her.* That, about Ten a-Clock at
 'Night they went forth, and return'd
 'about One in the Morning; and Mr.
 'P——r having taken his Leave of Mr.
 'de la Bastide, set out in a Chaise for Calais,
 'where he arrived on Wednesday the 28th,
 'in the Evening; and the next Morning
 'the Writer of this Account took his
 'Leave of Mr. P——r, who thank'd him
 'in the civilest Manner; and very nobly
 'made him a Present of Fifty Pistoles.
 'And that the same Day, July the 29th,
 'N. S. Mr. P——r having put to Sea with
 'a fair Wind, 'twas suppos'd, in a few
 'Hours he Landed in England.

I must not forget to add a remarkable Passage in this Account, viz. That, in a pri-

vate Conversation between Mr. P—r and his Secretary or *Valet*, ' He seem'd, (says ' Mr. *Du Baudrier*) to value himself very much upon the Happiness of his own Island, which, as he pretended, had felt no Effects, like these, upon Trade or Agriculture. But, (*continues he*) I made bold to return for Answer, That in our Nation we only consulted the Magnificence and Power of our Prince ; but that in *England*, as I was inform'd, the Wealth of the Kingdom was so divided among the People, that little or nothing was left to their Sovereign ; and that it was confidently told (tho' hardly believ'd in *France*) that some Subjects had Palaces more Magnificent than Q—A— her self: That I hop'd, when he went to *Versailles*, he would allow the Grandeur of our Potent Monarch to exceed, not only that of E—d, but any other in *Europe*, by which he would find that what he called the Poverty of our Nation, was rather the Effect of Policy in our Court, than any real Want or Necessity. Monsieur P— had no better Answer to make me, than that he was no Stranger to our Court, the Splendor of our Prince, and the Maxims by which he govern'd; but, for his part, he thought those Countries were happier, where the Productions of it were more equally divided.

When this Account was first publish'd
which

(which was the 11th Instant) People differ'd in their Conjectures and Opinions about it: Some looking upon it as *genuine*, others, (the far greater Number) as *fictitious*. In this Uncertainty the Generality still continue: But such as are pretty well acquainted with the secret Springs of Affairs have assured me, That tho' it be not an exact faithful Relation of Mr. P——r's Negotiation, it contains, however, many true Circumstances of his Journey. I am further inform'd, That this supposed Letter of Monsieur *du Baudrier*, was written by Dr. *Sw——t*, formerly Chaplain to Sir *William Temple*, whose Letters and posthumous Works he has publish'd; and who has since made himself yet more known, as well by some *Miscellaneous Essays* which he owns, as by a *more ingenious Piece*, which is father'd upon him. As to his Character, it is very *ambiguous*, and even *contradictory*: For as *Ambition* is predominant in him; sways all his other Passions; and directs all his Designs, so he is this Day a WHIGG, the next a TORY; *Haughty* and *Stiff* with most Men, *Cringing* and *Obsequious* with those in Power. This single Passage will better characterize him than any Picture I can draw: Big with Expectation of high *Preferment*, he attended the Earl of *W——n* in *Ireland*, and the better, as he fondly thought, to merit the Patronage of the then reigning Party, he, now and then, wrote *severe Lam-poons*

poons against the TORIES; one of which, levell'd against the present Lord T——r, and inserted (if my Memory fails me not) in one of the TATLERS about a Year ago, a Friend of mine saw in his Hand-Writing at *Dublin*, a Month before. But upon the late *Revolution* in the Ministry our *Tantivy* immediately tack'd about; and, with Mr. P——r, Dr. Fr——d, and some others, who devoted themselves, and their Pens to the Service of the present M——y; or to speak more properly, of the *Hot-Men* of the *High-Church* Party, was employ'd, by Way of PROBATION, to write the EXAMINER: That is, to aggravate the Failings of the late *Favourite*, and the pretended Miscarriages of the *Whigg* Ministry, with all the Heightnings of Rhetorick and Malice; to inveigh against them with suitable Bitterness; and to involve the whole *Whigg*-Party in the general Accusation. In this, however, they did not make their Court to the Prime M——r, who, as he has more *Pacificick Views*, so he steers by *Wiser Counsels*: Tho' sometimes, he connives at Things he condemns; but to which he cannot apply a present Remedy.

Now, MY LORD, having got this Thread, it will be easie to wind up the whole Bottom, and trace the late *Clandestine* Negotiation to its true Causes, and Motives.

In the first Place, we must call to mind,
That

That the most plausible Topick by which the present M——y ingratiated themselves with the People, was the Prospect of a sudden Peace; which Blessing their Under-Agents were taught to insinuate, had been kept off by the Duke of M——gh's and the late Tr——r's Ambition and Avarice. The LETTER to the EXAMINER, which, if we may credit Common Fame, was the Product of a Person in a great Post, and was publish'd about Thirteen Months ago, has these remarkable Hints: 'Allow that the *French* have recover'd Heart; that they rise in their Demands; that the Conferences at *Gertruydenberg* were broke off by them, whilst our *Plenipotentiaries* did all that possibly could be done to obtain a Safe and Honourable Peace: Allow, I say, all this; not because it is TRUE, for the CONTRARY will, one Time or other, be made out to the World, when the true State of our present Condition will be set in a clearer Light: — To restore the *Spanish* Monarchy to the House of *Austria*, who, by their own Sapienes, and by the Perfidy of the *French*, had lost it; and to regain a Barrier for *Holland*, which lay naked, and open to the Insults of *France*, where the Wise and Generous Motives, which engag'd *Britain* in the present War. We engag'd as Confederates, but we have been made to proceed as *Principals*: *Principals* in Expence of Blood, and

' and of Treasure, whilst hardly a Second Place in Respect and Dignity is allow'd to us.

' In the Year 1706, the last of these two Motives was effectually answer'd by the Reduction of the *Netherlands*, or might have been so by the Concessions, which 'tis notorious that the Enemy offer'd. But the first Motive remain'd still in its full Force; and we were told, That tho' the Barrier of *Holland* was secured, the Trade of *Britain* and the Balance of Power in *Europe*, would be still precarious. *Spain*, therefore, was to be Conquer'd before we laid down our Arms, and we were made to expect that the whole Attention of our Ministers would be apply'd to that Part of the War. Like Men of resign'd Understandings, we acquiesc'd; and flatter'd ourselves, That since *Holland* had been secured in the first Place, *Britain* would be taken care of in the Second. But, alas! these Expectations like many others have fail'd us.

' From that Point of Time, to this Hour, France has continued like a great Town, invested, indeed, on every Part, but attack'd only in one. In *Spain*, in *Savoy*, on the *Rhine*, enough, and but just enough, has been done to serve as a Pretence for Estimates, and Demands of Supplies; but nothing Decisive, nothing which had the Appearance of Earnest, has been

' been so much as attempted, except that
 ' wise Expedition to *Thoulon*, which we
 ' suffer'd to be defeated before it began.
 ' The whole Stress of the War has been
 ' wantonly laid where *France* is best able
 ' to keep us at Bay ; as if we Fought only
 ' to make Ostentation of our Valour,
 ' and of our Riches. Towns have been
 ' Taken, and Battles have been Won ; the
 ' Mob has huzza'd round Bonfires ; the
 ' Stentor of the Chappel has strain'd his
 ' Throat in the Gallery, and the Stentor
 ' of *S—m* has deafen'd his Audience from
 ' the Pulpit. In the mean while the *French*
 ' King has withdrawn his Troops from
 ' *Spain*, and has PUT IT OUT OF HIS
 ' POWER TO RESTORE THAT MO-
 ' NARCHY TO US ; was he reduc'd low
 ' enough to desire to DO IT. The Duke
 ' of *Anjou* has had Leisure to take those
 ' whom he suspected ; to encrease and form
 ' his Troops ; and, above all, to rouze that
 ' Spirit in the *Spaniſh* Nation, which a Suc-
 ' cession of Lazy and Indolent Princes had
 ' lull'd Asleep.

' From hence it appears probable enough,
 ' That if the War continue much longer,
 ' on the present Foot ; instead of regaining
 ' *Spain*, we shall find the Duke of *Anjou* in
 ' a Condition to pay the Debt of Grati-
 ' tude, and support the *Grand-father*, in his
 ' declining Years, by whose Arms, in the
 ' Days of his Infancy, he was upheld. The
 ' *Dutch* will have a larger and better Coun-
 ' try than their own, at the EXPENCE of
 ' BRITAIN conquer'd for them, by those

' Ministers who once thought it impolitick
 ' to consent that even *Ostend* should be
 ' made a Part of their Barrier. The Em-
 ' peror has already *Bavaria*, the Dutchy of
 ' *Mantua*, the State of *Milan*, and the King-
 ' dom of *Naples*: *Sicily* and some other
 ' Places dependent on these may be added to
 ' his Portion, and by the little Care he now
 ' takes to support King *Charles*, we may
 ' easily judge how great his Concern will
 ' be, if that Prince should be depriv'd of
 ' all the rest. *Britain* may expect to remain
 ' exhausted of Men and Money; to see her
 ' Trade divided amongst her Neighbours;
 ' her Revenues anticipated, even to future
 ' Generations; and to have this *only Glory*
 ' left her, That she has prov'd a **FARM**
 ' to the **BANK**, a **PROVINCE** to **HOL-**
 ' **LAND**, and a **JEST** to the whole World.

' If the Facts I have mention'd are true,
 ' and the Consequences I have drawn from
 ' them are Naturally deducible from such
 ' Causes, may not the King of *France* rea-
 ' sonably hope, tho' *Holland* should be ag-
 ' grandiz'd, that *Britain* will be in propor-
 ' tion weaken'd? May he not hope, in Ex-
 ' change for a few Towns, which he either
 ' Bought or Stole, in former Wars, to se-
 ' cure the *Spanish* Monarchy to the House
 ' of *Bourbon* for ever, by happily conclu-
 ' ding this?

This, my LORD, was the most essen-
 tial Part of the INSTRUCTIONS the
 Authors of the EXAMINER were to fol-
 low in their Weekly *Invectives* against the
 late M——y, or *Political Lectures*; which
 they

they observ'd with great Punctuality ; as appears by the following Passage, extracted out of *Examiner* 39, (April the 26th, 1711.)

' And here, say they, we cannot refuse the late M——y their due Praises, who foreseeing a Storm, provided for their own Safety, by two admirable Expedients, by which, with great Prudence, they have escap'd the Punishments due to pernicious Councils, and corrupt Management. The First was to procure, under pretences hardly specious, a General Act of Indemnity, which cuts off all Impeachments. The Second, was yet more refin'd : Suppose, for Instance, a Counsel is to be pursued, which is necessary to carry on the Dangerous Designs of a prevailing Party, to preserve them in Power, to gratifie the unmeasureable Appetites of a few Leaders, Civil and Military, tho' by hazarding the Ruin of the whole Nation : This Council, desperate in it self, unpresidented in the Nature of it, they procure a Majority to form into an ADDRESS, which makes it look like the Sense of the Nation : Under this Shelter they carry on their Work, and lie secure against After-reckonings.

' I must be so free to tell my meaning in this, That among other Things, I understood it of the Address made to the Q——n, about Three Years ago, to desire that Her M——y would not consent to a Peace, WITHOUT THE ENTIRE RESTITUTION OF SPAIN. A Proceeding which, to People Abroad, must look like the highest strain of TEMERITY, FOLLY, and GASCONADE. But we at Home, who allow the Promoters of that Advice to be no Fools, can easily comprehend the Depth and Mystery of it. They were assur'd, by this means, to pin down the War upon us, consequently to encrease their own Power and Wealth, and multiply Difficulties on the Q——n and Kingdom, till they had fix'd their Party too firmly to be shaken, when ever they should find themselves dispos'd to reverse their Address, and give Leave to wish for a PEACE.

' If any Man entertains a more favourable Opi-

nion of this Monstrous Step in Politicks, I would ask him what we must do, in case we find it impossible to recover SPAIN? &c.

The Scheme of a Peace, without the Restitution of Spain, which was insinuated in this Paragraph, occasion'd the Writing of Two Pamphlets. The first entitled, *Reflections upon the Examiner's Scandalous Peace*, contains little else besides Extracts of some Publick Acts that have pass'd in *England*, since the French King's placing his Grandson on the Throne of Spain, till the Beginning, (as the Author terms it) of the Examiner's M—y: Such as, 1. The Lords Address of Jan. the 2d. 170¹, on Occasion of the late King's ever-memorable Speech, at the Opening of the Parliament 1701, importing, *That his Majesty, his Subjects, and Allies, could never be Safe, till the House of Austria be restor'd to their Rights.* 2. The Grand Alliance concluded, Sept. 7th. 1701, declaring expresly, *That the Succession of the whole Spanish Monarchy belong'd to the House of Austria; and, That the said Alliance was intended to procure Satisfaction to the Emperor.* 3. The Declaration of War thereupon, on the 4th. of May 1702; communicated to the Parliament, with the Thanks of the Commons, and Promise to enable Her to carry it on to the utmost of their Power. 4. Her Majesty's Speech to the Parliament, Oct. 23. 1702. 5. The Addresses of Both Houses thereupon; 6. The Queen's Message, Jan. 4. 170², for an Augmentation of Troops, with the Vote of the Commons to make good what Negotiations the Queen should enter into for an Increase of Troops;

And

And the Advice of the Lords, that Her Majesty would agree to the Proposal of the States for such an Augmentation. 7. The Queen's Speech to the Parliament, Nov. 9. 1703. and the Addresses of Both Houses on that Occasion, *For Recovering the Monarchy of Spain from the House of Bourbon, and restoring it to the House of Austria*: 'This, says 'the Author, is the declared Design of all the 'Parties in the Grand Alliance; this is what 'the Queen her self declares She makes 'the War for; this is what Both Houses of 'Parliament extol and bless her for; and 'this was no Ordinary House of Commons: But (if the Examiner will allow 'any but himself to distinguish of those 'Assemblies, which have been venerable in 'all Ages) this was a *High-Church Tacking* 'House of Commons? 8. The Queen's Speech to the Parliament, Nov. 1. 1705, intimating, *Nothing can be more evident, than that, if the French King continues Master of the Spanish Monarchy, the Ballance of Power in Europe is utterly destroy'd*; and the Addresses of Both Houses, concurring with Her Majesty in these her wise Sentiments. 9. The Queen's Message, Nov. 27. 1705. And the Address of Both Houses thereupon, promising to Assist Her in the Great and Just Design of Restoring the Spanish Monarchy to the House of Austria. 10. The Queen's Speech, Dec. 3. 1706, intimating the prospect of a good Peace; with the Lords Address, insisting on *Such a Peace as may restore the WHOLE MONARCHY of Spain to King Charles III.* And that of the Commons, importing,

That

That no Specious Pretences of Peace should divert their steady Resolution of enabling Her Majesty to improve the Advantages of that successful Campaign; in order to establish the Ballance of Power in Europe, by a Safe, Honourable, and Lasting Peace. 11. the Queen's Speech at the Opening of the first Parliament of Great-Britain, Nov. 10. 1707, wherein She mentions the Reducing the WHOLE Spanish Monarchy to King Charles's Obedience: With the Address of the Commons, importing, *That no Disappointment shall discourage them from making their utmost Efforts to enable Her Majesty to reduce the WHOLE Spanish Monarchy, &c.* And the Address of the Lords asserting, *That no Peace can be Honourable or Safe, if SPAIN, or the WEST-INDIES, or any Part of the Spanish Monarchy, be suffer'd to remain in the Power of the House of Bourbon:* With which Address the Commons concurr'd; and upon the Two Houses presenting it, the Queen declared Her self to be fully of the Opinion of the Parliament, *That no Peace can be honourable or safe for us, or our Allies, till the ENTIRE MONARCHY of Spain be restor'd to the House of Austria.* 12. The Queen's Answer to the Commons Address, Febr. 5. 1708, importing, *That the Restoring the Spanish Monarchy to the House of Austria, and thereby the Ballance of the Power in Europe, was the principal Inducement of the present War; on the Success whereof the Trade, Tranquillity, and Security of Great Britain depended.* 13. The Queen's Message to the Parliament March 4. 1708.

about

about the Pretender's Invasion, with the Address of Both Houses, intimating, *That no Attempts of that Kind should deter them from Supporting Her Majesty in the Prosecution of the War against France, until the Monarchy of Spain be restor'd to the House of Austria.* 14. The Address of the Lords, Nov. 19, 1708, professing, *They are more and more convinc'd, that no Peace can be safe and honourable until the Whole Monarchy of Spain be restor'd to the House of Austria;* and the Address of the Commons promising to give such Supplies as might be most effectual for reducing the Power of the Common Enemy, and forcing him to accept such a Peace as Her Majesty, and Her Allies should think Honourable and Lasting. 15. The Address of Both Houses, March the 4th, 1709, desiring, *That the French King be oblig'd to own Her Majesty's Title, and the Protestant Succession; That the PRETENDER be removed out of the French Dominions; and, That the Fortifications and Harbour of DUNKIRK be demolish'd and destroy'd;* with the Queen's Answer, declaring, *She was of the same Opinion with Her Parliament, in the several Particulars of that Address.* 16. The Queen's Speech to the Parliament, Nov. the 15th 1709; and the respective Addresses of the Two Houses, assuring Her Majesty, *That they would Support Her to carry on the War, in such a Manner as should oblige the Common Enemy to accept a Peace upon such Terms as should be a lasting Security to Her and Her Allies.*

After these Quotations the Author observes, 'That the Examiner has industri-

'ously taken Care not to recite truly the
 ' very Address he makes it his Business to
 ' rail at ; for not one of the said Addresses,
 ' in relation to this Matter, is conceiv'd
 ' in the Terms he sets down in his Paper.
 ' The Stile the Parliament uses is not to
 ' desire the Queen, That She would not
 ' consent to a Peace, without the entire Re-
 ' stitution of *Spain* ; but that, in their Opin-
 ' ion, no Peace can be Safe, or Honour-
 ' able, unless the whole *Spanish* Monarchy
 ' be restor'd : And the Queen is pleas'd to
 ' declare more than once, That She is of
 ' the same Opinion. Let the *Examiner*,
 ' adds he, speak plain ; where is the Teme-
 ' rity, Folly, and Gasconade of this ? And
 having wiped off the Scandal cast by the
Examiner on the late Ministry, in the Pa-
 ragraph before-mention'd, the Author con-
 cludes, That, *without being let into the Secret*,
it will be hard to find out good Reasons, why the
Allies must now dwindle as to the Terms of Peace ;
when all our Allies continue firm, and when, as
the Examiner assures us, we are at this Juncture,
at Home, bleſſ'd in a Wise, Honest, and Able
Ministry ; when a Candid, Loyal, and freely
chosen Parliament have charg'd their Country
with as great Taxes for the War, as any that
have gone before them ; when he himself boasts
that our Debts are fully provided for ; and that
our Credit is entirely restor'd.

The other Pamphlet is entitled, *A Letter to a Member of the October-Club* ; shew-
 ing, That to yield Spain to the Duke of An-
 jou by a Peace, would be the Ruin of Great
 Britain. The Author, who is the same
 who

who lately writ a Pamphlet call'd, BOUCHAIN, or a Dialogue between the *Medley* and *Examiner*; endeavours to prove,
 * ' That the Consequences of yielding
 ' Spain to the D. of Anjou, will be, I. The
 ' Loss of Three Millions and a Half of
 ' Annual Income by Foreign Trade; a
 ' Sum which more than Ballances all our
 ' Foreign Expences, even during the pre-
 ' sent War. II. The Annual Expence of
 ' Half a Million, without any Income of
 ' Money, by our Foreign Markets. III. The
 ' Loss of Employment and Subsistence for
 ' at least a Million of Souls, a Sixth or
 ' Seventh Part of the Whole People. IV.
 ' And lastly, The Reduction of all Estates
 ' to one Fourth Part of their present Value,
 ' to the utter Impoverishment of all the
 ' Land-holders in Great Britain: These,
 ' says he, certainly were sufficient Reasons
 ' for the Address to Her Majesty, not to
 ' consent to a Peace, without the Entire
 ' Restitution of Spain to the House of Au-
 ' stria, and those noble Persons who advis'd
 ' it deserve eternal Thanks from their
 ' Country. What then, continues he, shall
 ' be thought of those Wretches who have
 ' the Confidence to tell us, That this was a
 ' monstrous Step in Politicks? What shall
 ' be thought of those Miscreants who have
 ' dared to offer a Comparison between the
 ' Parliament which made this Address, and
 ' that which began the Rebellion against King
 ' Charles I. voted his Tryal, and appointed his

E

Murderers

* Page 54, and 55.

‘*Murderers?* Yet this is the Language of
 ‘the *Examiner* of April the 26th, Number
 ‘39. before quoted. Is then the Ruin of the
 ‘whole Nation hazarded by those Leaders,
 ‘who every Year have torn a Limb from
 ‘the formidable Enemy of *Europe*; and are
 ‘now stabbing him at the Heart? And
 ‘would not the Ruin of the Gentlemen, the
 ‘Common People, and the Whole King-
 ‘dom be unavoidable, if *Spain* should be left
 ‘in his Power by a Peace? Was it not fit
 ‘then for the Great Council of the Nation
 ‘to *Address* the Sovereign to continue the
 ‘War, which (Thanks be to Almighty God)
 ‘does not ruin the Kingdom, and which,
 ‘every Year brings us so much nearer to
 ‘our wish'd for Happiness and Security?
 ‘Where, then, was this desparate *Counsel*; this
 ‘unprecedented Proceeding; this monstrous Step
 ‘in Politicks; this high Strain of Temerity, Folly
 ‘and Gasconade? Was there any bold Un-
 ‘dertaking for the Providence of God in
 ‘this Address? Was it any Thing else but
 ‘the Choice of *Hopes* by a *War*, rather than
 ‘of certain *Ruin* by a *Peace*?

Tho' the Generality of the Nation allow'd the Solidity of the Reasons contain'd in these Two Pamphlets, yet many were wrought upon by contrary Agruments, viz. That the Scene of Affairs being, in a great Measure, shifted by the Decease both of the late *Emperor* and the *Dauphin*, it was not impossible to put an End to this heavy expensive War, by a Safe and Honourable Peace, without insisting on the Restitution of the Whole Monarchy of *Spain*. They were

were made to consider, on the one side, That King *Charles* succeeding in the Empire, and the Hereditary Countries, and being already possess'd of the *Spanish Territories* in *Italy*, the Addition of *Spain* to his other Dominions, might render the House of *Austria* too Potent; and not only destroy the very End for which this War was undertaken, viz. the preserving a *Balance of Power in Europe*, but also, in Time, occasion a New War to *restore that Balance*. On the other Side, they reflected, That one of the Great Reasons for wresting *Spain* out of the Hands of King *Philip*, viz. Its entire Dependence on *France* is like to cease, upon the Death of his Grand-Father; when the Natural Antipathy between the Two Nations and the Jealousies and Differences which often arise between Neighbour Kings, and are generally the fiercer among near Relations, will, in all probability, break the present *Union of France and Spain*. And they were made to observe, likewise, That it was now impracticable to restore the Whole *Spanish Dominions* to the House of *Austria*; that Monarchy being actually *dismembred*, and Part of it yielded to the Duke of *Savoy*, and other Parts conquer'd by the *English & Dutch*.

On the other Hand, the Landed Gentlemen having (as I hinted before) been taught to believe, *That we might have had a good Peace, ever since the Battle of Ramelies; and that from that Time the War had been wantonly carry'd on, to gratifie the unmeasureable Appetites of a few Leaders*: It was but common Prudence in the present *M——rs*, so far

to gratifie the Party that seem'd most weary of the War, as to give them an Opportunity to try the *Experiment* of a *Negotiation*, manag'd by Persons in whom they could entirely confide : Else the Objection, start-ed by the Author of the Letter before quoted, would be in every Body's Mouth, viz.
 † *If a good Peace might have been had ever since the Battle of Rameilles, why have not the New M——y procured it, since they have succeeded to the Powers of the Old?*

Upon all these Considerations, it was thought fit to hearken to some Overtures of Peace, which, I am inform'd, were first made to the late Earl of F——y, by his old Acquaintance the Marquis *de Torcy*; and the latter having desired that a Person with whom he might Discourse freely, should be sent over, Mr. P——r was immediately pitch'd upon; as, indeed, as fit as any Body else for such a private Negotiation; by Reason of his former Employments at the Peace of *Ryswick*, and in *France*; and his Personal Acquaintance with that *French* Minister. This agrees with the Extract of a Letter, written from *Paris* the 24th of *August*, N. S. to a Friend of mine at *Amsterdam*, who communicated the same to me in one of his, dated *September* the 1st; and which contains these very Words: *Monsieur de Torcy est revenu de sa Terre de Sable, qu'il acheta il y a un an dans l'Anjou, et il n'y est resté que dix jours. Cette Absence a été expliquée diversement : Les uns comme Sil*

† *Letter to a Member of the Octob. Club, p. 61.*

S'il devoit être allé à Calais, pour une Négociation secrète, &c.

What pass'd in the private Interviews between Mr. P—r, and the Ministers of France, is still an absolute Secret: For there's Reason to believe, that the *Account of a Journey to Paris*, of which I have given your Lordship an Extract, was design'd as a *Amusement*; and only to let the World know, First, what few People were Ignorant of, viz. That there was a Negotiation on Foot; and in the second Place, what some People doubted, viz. That Mr. P—r insisted upon very high Terms, and in the last Conference he had with those he treated, stily said, TOUT, OU RIEN; *All, or Nothing*. There are, indeed, in that Account, many *Improbabilities*, as well as *False French*; but these are the particular Faults of the Relater, who has committed many such *Errors* in his Editions of Sir William Temple's Letters. Nor is it to be wonder'd, that indiscreet Writer took that Opportunity to reflect on the Duke of M—gb, by making Mr. De la Bastide say, *Consider which is to be most preferr'd, the Good of your Country, or the particular Advantage of your G—l?* and by suggesting, That Some Subjects have Palaces more magnificant than Q— A—.

But 'tis not any Thing Jonath. can ever say will be a Reflection upon the *last Ministry* with the *present*, who know him to be as unsettled in his *Politicks* as in his *Religion*: Or rather, that he knows as little of the one, as he believes of the other. 'Tis pleasant

to

to hear a Divine tell the World, how well or ill he stands with Statesmen, as this *Tantivy* says, * *That the Suspicion he lay under for Writing a Letter concerning the Sacramental Test, had absolutely ruin'd him with the late Ministry*: When, indeed, he was intimate with none of them, upon any other Score, than as he is with One or Two now in Place, that is, as a *Scandal-Bearer* and *Buffoon*. His ridiculous Pretensions to an *ENVOTSHIP*, in one of the First Courts of *Europe*, was the Thing that made him pass with them, at last, for a Crack-brain'd Fellow, whereas he was only remarkable before for such a Vein of Lewdness, Swearing, and Profaneness, as never appear'd in any other Writer, since the World begun: To which if you add his shameless *Inconsistency* with himself (for which we refer to his Works) we shall willingly grant him to be a *Nonpareil*. But no more of this *TOOL*, who puts in, at present, for *Plenipotentiary*.

What Progress has been made in this important Negotiation, since the Return of Mr. P——r, is known but by very few: But the common Report is, that there have been Two *French Ministers* in *England*. If, as I am inform'd, their Court has offer'd not only to raze *Dunkirk*, and acknowledge the *Queen's Title*, and the Protestant Succession, but also to yield to us and the *Dutch*, Part of the *Spanish West-Indies*, and, as an undoubted Security of these Concessions, to deliver up *Cadiz* into our Hands:

I

* *Miscellanies*, pag. 314.

I am inclined to believe, that there are very few Men, but will think these Preliminaries sufficient for the Basis of a profitable, honourable and lasting Peace; and I am of Opinion, That the Persons now at the Helm will never advise, or consent to any other.

This Opinion I am confirm'd in, by the Perusal of a Pamphlet that came out Yesterday, entituled, *The Taxes not Grievous, and therefore not a Reason for an unsafe Peace*: Which I have some Grounds to conjecture to be written by a Well-Wisher to the present M — y; tho', at the same Time, no Enemy to the Whiggs. His main Design in that Writing is, ' To shew the ' Falshood of the common Assertion, *That* ' the Taxes are already so grievous, and the ' Means of Raising more, so exhausted, that ' Peace must be had upon the best Terms we can; ' and he rightly observes, 1. That if this ' Doctrine be believ'd by our Enemy A- ' broad, it must necessarily make him the ' stiffer in his Terms; 2. That the Belief ' of this will make the People at Home ' the more Resty and Impatient, if Her ' Majesty be oblig'd to break off the Nego- ' tiation. He therefore enquires, how and ' wherein these Taxes are so Burdensome; ' and having divided the whole Body of ' the People into these Six Classes; 1. The ' Landed Men; 2. Clergy; 3. Merchants; ' 4. Manufacturers; 5. Shop-keepers; and ' 6 Farmers; he endeavours to evince, ' That, the Clergy excepted, not only none ' among

among us are any ways afflicted by the
 Taxes ; but also, that the War has pro-
 duced an Addition of great and lasting
 Advantages to the People of this Nation,
 with Respect to Wealth, over and above
 Liberty, and a Security in our Properties;
 This done he concludes, ' That the same
 Wisdom and benign Providence which
 has shewn us the Means of carrying on
 the War Nine Years, with so little Grief
 and Oppression to the People, will not de-
 sert us, if it be found necessary to con-
 tinue it another Year. If therefore our
 Enemy be obstinate, and will not agree
 to those Terms which Her Sacred MA-
 JESTY (in whose Hands we are undoubt-
 ly safe) shall think fit to insist upon, let
 us not in our Folly be wafish and dis-
 contented ; rememb'ring that our good
 QUEEN has no Views but the Welfare
 of Her People ; nor no Ends to pursue
 by continuing the War unnecessarily :
 And as GOD forbid the War should be
 continued a Month, if a Safe and Good
 Peace can be had now ; so, on the other
 Hand, let not the mistaken Notion of the
 Taxes being Grievous, cause it to be con-
 tinued untimely.

This, *My Lord*, is all I have hitherto
 been able to learn about this important
 Affair ; which, in Obedience to your Lord-
 ship's Commands, I have set down in Writ-
 ing ; being proud of this Opportunity
 of Subscribing my self, &c.

POSTSCRIPT.

London, October the 13th, 1711.

MY LORD,

SINCE the Writing of this Letter, I have been inform'd, That, about the Beginning of this Instant Sept. Monsieur Mesnager, Deputy of the Council of Commerce in France, and Monsieur l' Abbé du Bois, came over from France; and after having continued some Days Incognito, both here, and at Windsor, and had several Conferences with our Ministers, Mr. Mesnager did, on the 27th, sign the *Preliminary Articles* offer'd by the King his Master, in the Form following.

*Preliminary Articles on the Part of France,
for effecting a General Peace.*

The King being willing to contribute all that is in his Power to the Re-establishment of the general Peace; his Majesty declares,

F

1. *That*

1. That he will acknowledge the Queen of Great Britain in that Quality, as also the Succession of that Crown according to the present Settlement.

2. That he will freely and bona fide consent to the Taking all just and reasonable Measures for bindering that the Crowns of France and Spain may never be united on the Head of the same Prince, his Majesty being perswaded, that this Excess of Power would be contrary to the Good and Quiet of Europe.

3. The King's Intention is, That all the Parties engaged in the present War, without excepting any of them, may find their reasonable Satisfaction in the Treaty of Peace which shall be made: That Commerce may be re-establish'd and maintain'd for the future, to the Advantage of Great Britain, of Holland and of the other Nations who have been accustom'd to exercise Commerce.

4. As the King will likewise maintain exactly the Observation of the Peace when it shall be concluded, and the Object the King proposes to himself being to secure the Frontiers of his Kingdom without disturbing, in any Manner whatever, the neighbouring States be promises to agree by the Treaty which shall be made, That the Dutch shall be put into Possession of the Fortify'd Places which shall be

be mentioned in the Netherlands, to serve hereafter for a Barriere, which may secure the Quiet of the Republick of Holland against any Enterprize from the Part of France.

5. The King consents likewise, That a secure and convenient Barriere should be form'd for the Empire, and for the House of Austria.

6. Notwithstanding Dunkirk cost the King very great Sums, as well to Acquire it, as to Fortify it ; and that 'tis farther necessary to be at very considerable Expence for Razing the Works, his Majesty is willing, however, to engage to cause them to be Demolished, immediately after the Conclusion of the Peace ; on Condition, That for the Fortifications of that Place, a proper Equivalent, that may content him, be given him ; and, as England cannot furnish that Equivalent, the Discussion of it shall be referred to the Conferences to be held for the Negotiation of the Peace.

7. When the Conferences for the Negotiation of the Peace shall be formed, all the Pretensions of the Princes and States engaged in the present War, shall be therein discussed *bona fide* and amicably : And nothing shall be omitted to regulate and terminate them, to the Satisfaction of all the Parties.

By Virtue of a full Power from the King,
we, the under-written, Knight of his
Order of St. Michael, Deputy of the
Council of Commerce, have concluded,
in the Name of his Majesty, the present
Preliminary-Articles. In Witness where-
of, we have signed. Done at *London*,
the 27th of *September*, Old Stile, and the
8th of *October*, New Stile, 1711.

(L. S.)

Mesnager.

On the 4th Instant Messieurs *Mesnager*
and *Du Bosc* took their Leave of our Mi-
nisters, in Order to return to *France*, being,
as we are told, *extreamly well satisfy'd with*
the Reception they had here. After their
Departure, the Government thought fit to
communicate the foregoing Preliminaries
to the Ministers of the High Allies resi-
ding at this Court; one of whom having
taken Care to have them publish'd this
Morning in the *Daily-Courant*, many Peo-
ple were strangely surprized; not finding
these Preliminaries answerable to the Ex-
pectations they were made to entertain.
Hereupon, the Writers of the *Post-Boy*,
who, on *Thursday* last, promis'd, in a few
Days, to inform the *Publick of the Parti-
culars of this Peace*, which, they said, are
*so GLORIOUS and ADVANTAGE-
OUS to this Nation and all the Allies*,
that it will be LASTING, SAFE, and
SAFE,

HONOURABLE; perceiving that the Publick were somewhat balk'd, publish'd, this Afternoon, the following Articles; which, they tell us, are agreed on; (besides the French King's Preliminaries) as the Basis of a future Peace; viz.

1. *That the Kingdoms of Naples, Sicily, and Sardinia, the Dukedom of Milan, the Ports of Tuscany, that belong'd to the Crown of Spain, and all Flanders, shall remain for ever to the House of Austria.*

2. *That King Philip shall have all Spain, Majorca, Minorca, and the West-Indies.*

3. *That for the Security of the English and Dutch Trade, at all Times, with Spain, King Philip will consent that the City of Cadiz shall be always Garrison'd by the English, and full Liberty to the South-Sea Company to establish themselves on the Continent of that Country, according to the Act of Parliament.*

4. *That the Fortifications of Dunkirk shall be demolish'd, and the Harbour ruin'd.*

5. *That the Dutch may name Commissioners to treat with French Commissioners about Regulating the necessary Barriers; and,*

6. *That*

(46)

5. That Satisfaction, and Security shall
be given to the rest of the Allies at the
General Congress.

The Foreign Ministers have sent to
their respective Masters the Preliminaries
that have been communicated to them;
and if their Principals judge them to be
a sufficient Foundation for a Safe and
Lasting Peace, there's no Doubt but the
Place of Congress will soon be named.

I am, &c.

